

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 LAGOS 05316 271544Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8164
INFO AMEMBASSY KABUL
USMISSION NEW YORK

S E C R E T LAGOS 5316

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG
SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: REPRESENTATIONS ON CUBA'S
ROLE IN THE HORN

REF: (A) STATE 107365, (B) LAGOS 1535

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD NOT BE ADVISABLE TO
APPROACH THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT AS PROPOSED IN REF A.

2. WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE UTILITY OF
SUCH A REPRESENTATION:
--AS CHAIRMAN OF THE OAU GOOD OFFICES COMMISSION, NIGERIA
HAS TRIED HARD TO MAINTAIN A PUBLIC POSTURE OF IMPARTIAL MEDIATION
IN THE HORN, ADMITTEDLY WITHOUT ANY TANGIBLE RESULTS.
IT SEEMS HIGHLY UNLIKELY TO US, THEREFORE,
THAT THE FMG WOULD BE WILLING TO PURSUE THE CUBAN ISSUE AT THE
NAMCC MEETING.

--IN ADDITION, AS REPORTED IN REF B, NON-
PUBLIC VIEWS IN THE MEA TEND TO BE STRONGLY PRO-
ETHIOPIAN AND NOT PARTICULARLY CONCERNED BY A CUBAN
TROOP PRESENCE IN ANGOLA OR ETHIOPIA IN WHAT THE
NIGERIANS FEEL IS A GENERALLY GOOD CAUSE. THE

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NIGERIAN REALIZE THAT ERITREA IS NOT THE OGADEN.
NEVERTHELESS, WE FEEL THAT, PARTICULARLY BECAUSE OF
THEIR OWN CIVIL WAR EXPERIENCE, THE NIGERIANS WOULD
BE DISINCLINED TO CONDEMN ETHIOPIAN EFFORTS TO HOLD
TOGETHER THEIR DIVERSE COUNTRY WITH THE SUPPORT OF
OUSIDE ASSISTANCE.

3. FOR THE REASONS OUTLINED ABOVE WE DO NOT BELIEVE
IT WOULD BE PRODUCTIVE TO RAISE THIS ISSUE IN THE
CONTEXT OF THE NAMCC. WE WILL, HOWEVER, TAKE CONVENIENT
OCCASION WHEN IT ARISES TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERN AND
SEEK NIGERIAN VIEWS.
WYMAN

SECRET

NNN

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